

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
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AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PL, UR
SUBJECT: POLISH PRESS REPORTS GIEREK PARTICIPATION AT BREZHNEV
JUBILEE

REF: WARSAW 9013, 8979

1. SUMMARY. THE POLISH PRESS HAS EXTENSIVELY REPORTED THE BREZHNEV JUBILEE CEREMONIES WITH THE SAME FULSOME PRAISE FOR THE SOVIET UNION AS WAS USED DURING KOSYGIN'S RECENT VISIT TO POLAND (REFS). THERE WAS, MOREOVER, FULL COVERAGE OF THE DECEMBER 17 PRESENTATION OF THE "ORDER OF THE REBIRTH OF POLAND" TO BREZHNEV BY FIRST SECRETARY GIEREK. GIEREK'S TRAVEL TO VLADIMIR AND SUZDAL ON DECEMBER 18 WAS NOTED BRIEFLY. FAVORABLE PRESS ACCOUNTS OF PREMIER JAROSZEWICZ'S DECEMBER 15-17 VISIT TO BRITAIN SOMEWHAT N
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BALANCE THE EMPHASIS ON THE USSR. END SUMMARY.

2. TRYBUNA LUDU OF DECEMBER 18-19 FEATURED AN ACCOUNT OF GIEREK'S PRESENTATION OF THE ORDER OF THE REBIRTH OF POLAND TO LEONID BREZHNEV AT THE KREMLIN ON DECEMBER 17. GIEREK SAID THE ORDER WAS CONNECTED WITH THE MANY GENERATIONS OF POLES WHO STRUGGLED FOR IN-

DEPENDENCE AND WHO COMBINED "ARDENT PATRIOTISM WITH INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY." GIEREK REPORTEDLY POINTED TO BREZHNEV'S STATEMENT DURING HIS JULY, 1974 VISIT TO WARSAW THAT THE SOVIET UNION ALWAYS SINCERELY DESIRED A STRONG, INDEPENDENT, DEMOCRATIC POLAND. GIEREK SAID BREZHNEV EARNED THE AWARD FOR HIS ROLE IN THE CAUSE OF PEACE AS WELL AS HIS "PERSONAL, KIND-HEARTED, INTEREST" IN THE HUTA KATOWIC E STEEL MILL PROJECT.

3. TRYBUNA LUDU (DECEMBER 20) BRIEFLY NOTED GIEREK'S VISIT ON DECEMBER 18 TO VLADIMIR AND SUZDAL AND HIS PARTICIPATION IN A DISTRICT PARTY COMMITTEE MEETING WITH MICHAEL PONOMARIOV.

4. COMMENT. NEITHER THE COMPOSITION OF THE POLISH DELEGATION NOR THE LENGTH OF GIEREK'S STAY IN THE SOVIET UNION HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED IN THE POLISH PRESS. KATOWICE PARTY FIRST SECRETARY ZDZISLAW GRUDZIEN AND POLITBURO MEMBER WLADYSLAW KRUCZEK WERE DISTINGUISHABLE IN A POLISH TELEVISION TRANSMISSION OF THE AWARDS CEREMONY ON DECEMBER 18.

5. THE HEAVY POLISH MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE SOVIET UNION IN RECENT WEEKS HAS BEEN BALANCED SOMEWHAT WITH FAVORABLE COMMENTARY ON PREMIER JAROSZEWICZ'S VISIT OF DECEMBER 15-17 TO THE UK. END COMMENT
MARIAN KUSZEWSKI WROTE IN A TRYBUNA LUDU EDITORIAL ON DECEMBER 20 THAT JAROSZEWICZ'S VISIT WAS "INCONTESTABLY AN IMPORTANT POLITICAL EVENT" AND "IN ALL CERTAINLY FRUITFUL." JAROSZEWICZ EMPHASIZED THE SUCCESS OF HIS BRITISH VISIT IN A BUDGET SPEECH TO THE SEJM DECEMBER 18. HE SAID THE POLICY OF SEEKING FOREIGN CREDITS FOR INVESTMENT WOULD CONTINUE AND ADDED THAT "FURTHER CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS" COULD BE EXPECTED FROM POLAND'S "NUMEROUS ACTIVE CONTACTS" WITH WESTERN AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.
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